

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, Line 22 with the following new paragraph:

Referring to the drawings, there is illustrated a self locking elevator brake actuating element 10 including an elongate handle 12 having one end affixed to a brake element such as a ~~drum~~ disk 14 mounted to rotate about an axis 16. The ~~drum~~ disk 14 is an integral portion of the elevator car drive braking system which may be in the form of the system illustrated and described in U.S. Patent 5,971,109, for example. The handle 12 is provided with a latch receiving aperture 18, as clearly shown in Fig. 3.

Replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, Line 28 with the following new paragraph:

Normally, the handle 12 is in a locked position within a lock assembly 20 as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. In this position of the handle 12, the ~~drum~~ disk 14 is in a reset position permitting the drive to move the elevator car as long as the drive brake (not shown) is not engaged. The lock assembly 20 includes a main housing securely mounted to a fixed surface 22, such as a cabinet or wall in the elevator control closet, for example. The lock assembly 20 includes a recess 24 for receiving a portion of the handle 12 in the region of the latch receiving aperture 18. The lock assembly 20 further includes a latching system similar in principle and structure to a standard residential or commercial door latch mechanism. In the illustrated embodiment, the latching system includes a latching plunger 26 which is normally spring biased to a closed position as clearly illustrated in Fig. 4. The latching plunger 26 is caused to be cammed inwardly toward an open position against the bias of a locking spring, not shown, by the camming action of the leading edge of the handle 12. When the outermost end of the latching plunger 26 becomes aligned with the aperture 18 of the handle 12, the latching plunger 26 is forced to its closed and locked position. The handle 12 thereupon is immobilized and locked in position and will remain in such condition until an authorized attendant inserts a key 28 into a lock cylinder 30 of the lock assembly 20 and properly unlocks the lock assembly 20 to allow the plunger 26 to be withdrawn from the locking position in the latch receiving aperture 18 of the handle 12. When the handle 12 is moved out of the recess 24, the ~~drum~~ disk 14 is rotated to a brake released position to release the drive brake and permit movement of the elevator car.